

The title of the application has been amended to make it clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention provides, in one embodiment, an apparatus for fabricating an optical information medium including means for applying a radiation curable resin to a first substrate, while the first substrate is being rotated, the first substrate having formed therein a stopper for preventing the radiation curable resin from protruding into a center hole, wherein the resin is applied to a portion of the first substrate circumferentially outwardly disposed on the first substrate with respect to the stopper, to form a donut-shaped resin layer; means for placing a second substrate on the first substrate; means for rotating the first and second substrates integrally; and means for irradiating the radiation curable resin with radioactive rays passing through at least one of the first and second substrates.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 43-51 and 56 stand rejected as obvious over Peeters, U.S. Patent No. 4,670,077 in view of Arai et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,705,247. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cited the Peeters description of an apparatus for fabricating an optical information medium, including a means for applying a radiation curable resin on a surface having a stopper means (12A, Fig. 1 of Peeters), means for placing additional substrate material on the surface, and means to rotate the resulting layered material. The Examiner stated that even though Peeters does not teach the aspect of providing means to irradiate the resin material, Arai et al provides this disclosure, and concluded it would have been obvious to combine the teachings

of Peeters and Arai et al. Arai et al is cited only for providing means to irradiate the resin material.

It appears the Examiner identified the spherical portion **12A** of the Peeters auxiliary centering means **12** with the presently claimed stopper. In fact, the portion **12A** of Peeters is not a "stopper for preventing the radiation curable resin from protruding into a center hole." In Peeters, portion **12A** fits into a center hole. However, there is no resin near the center hole into which portion **12A** fits, so the portion **12A** cannot act as a stopper for preventing the resin from protruding into a center hole as claimed. Thus, the present invention is distinct from Peeters. Arai et al. does not provide the disclosure missing from Peeters to render obvious Applicants' invention. Peeters does not disclose the presently claimed first substrate having formed therein a stopper for preventing the radiation curable resin from protruding into the center hole. Peeters' disc 8 is a separate component made of a different material, and is not formed as part of the substrate. Peeters' disc, as taught at column 9, lines 46-55, performs the dual function of centering the information disc on the drive spindle **27** as shown in Fig. 3 of Peeters, and as a spacer between the substrate and a cover plate. Peeters does not teach that the hub **8** serves as a stopper to prevent the radiation curable resin from protruding into the center hole.

In order to clarify the distinctions between the invention claimed in claim 43 and the cited combination of Peeters and Arai et al., and to advance the prosecution of this application, claim 43 has been amended as shown above. Claim 43, as amended more distinctly points out the relationships between the parts of the present optical information medium. Amended claim 43 clarifies that the substrate has formed therein a stopper for preventing the radiation curable resin from protruding into a center hole. This is in contrast to Peeters, wherein the disc 8 is not taught as a stopper, but as a centering means and as a spacer means, and wherein the disc 8 is an entirely separate

component of the information disc product, in contrast to the presently claimed invention.

With respect to claims 47, 48 and 49, the Examiner apparently failed to note the differences between these claims and claim 43. The differences generally are (1) that the stopper is not included in these claims, and (2) that these claims are distinguished from the cited references for different reasons.

Specifically, claims 47, 48 and 49 are distinguished from Peeters, for the following reasons. Claim 47 recites means for applying first and second radiation curable resins of different viscosities to circumferentially distinct portions of a substrate. Neither Peeters nor Arai et al. disclose or suggest applying first and second radiation curable resins having different viscosities to circumferentially distinct portions of a substrate. Claim 48 recites means for applying a radiation curable resin to two circumferentially distinct areas of a substrate. Neither Peeters nor Arai et al. disclose or suggest applying first and second radiation curable resins to circumferentially distinct portions of a substrate. Claim 49 recites means for applying a hot melt adhesive and a radiation curable resin to circumferentially distinct areas of a substrate. Neither Peeters nor Arai et al. disclose or suggest applying and radiation curable resin and a hot melt adhesive to circumferentially distinct portions of a substrate. Thus, the inventions in each of claims 47, 48 and 49 are distinct from the disclosure of the cited references. Applicants are aware of neither disclosure nor suggestion in the prior art of the invention claimed in these claims, or in claim 43.

Applicants earnestly believe that the claims are clearly distinguishable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

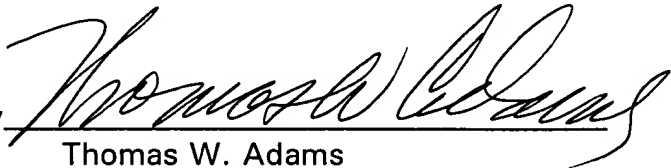
Serial No. 08/861,943

Docket No: YAMAP0398USA

In the event any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this petition, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to deposit account #18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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